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MAN CHARGED WITH FIREBOMBING MONAHANS MUNICIPAL BUILDING

(MIDLAND, TEXAS) A Monahans man stands charged by federal grand jury indictment in connection with the firebombing of the Municipal Building in Monahans that occurred during the early morning hours of June 3, 2002. The fire damaged the police department as well as other city offices located within the building.

TRAVIS JAMES HARRIS, age 22, is charged with one count each of arson, use of fire to commit a felony, use of a destructive device in furtherance of a crime of violence, and possession of an unregistered firearm. If convicted, Harris faces 5 to 20 years in prison on the arson charge, up to ten years for the unregistered firearm count, and mandatory consecutive 10 year sentences for the charges alleging use of a destructive device and use of fire to commit a felony. **Harris—who remains in custody—is scheduled for an initial appearance at 1:30pm tomorrow in Pecos, Texas, before United States Magistrate Judge Durwood Edwards.**

This case is being investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, the Texas Rangers, the Texas State Fire Marshal's Office, the Monahans Police Department, and the Ward County Sheriff's Office. Assistant United States Attorney Jeff Parras is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

It is important to note that an indictment is merely a charge and should not be considered as evidence of guilt.

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